a National Project is still pending with the Union Government.

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be declared as a National Project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c). Do not arise.

(d) No project in irrigation sector has been declared as National Project.

Cray Super Computers

3469. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are likely to permit the purchase of the Cray Super Computer for the Indian Institute of Science from Silicon Graphics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decision is likely to affect the nation's own super computer project; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the interest of indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

PM's Talks with World Dignitaries

3470. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister met various dignitaries of other countries during his recent visits to Harare and Rome; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, dignitary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). During his visit to Harare to attend the G-15 Summit, Prime Minister had meetings with the President of Egypt, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Prime Minister of Senegal and President of Zimbabwe.

Egypt

The meeting was in the form of a tete-a-tete and included a review of bilateral relations as also issues of international interest.

Malaysia

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 3 November, bilateral political and economic issues were discussed as well as how best to take India-Malaysia relationship forward. Regional and multilateral issues of common concern were also discussed. The need for working together in forums like G-15 and World Trade Organisation was exphasised.

Senegal

Discussions with the Prime Minister of Senegal included a review of the status of various bilateral projects which India is undertaking/contemplating in Senegal. It was also agreed that the President of Senegal would visit India in early 1997. A memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Entrepreneurship and Technical Development Centre in Senegal was signed under which Senegal would provide infrastructural support and India would provide technical expertise, equipment, training and personnel for small industries projects for 3 years.

Zimbabwe

In a gesture demomstrative of India's commitment to South-South cooperation, our Prime Minister gifted to the President of Zimbabwe, a rural automatic telephone exchange manufactured in India. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the development of small scale industries in Zimbabwe was signed on 2 November, 1996 which stipulates that Zimbabwe would provide infrastructural support and India would provide technical expertise, equipment, training and personnel for small industries projects for 3 years.

2. During his visit to Rome, the Prime Minister held discussions with the president of Indonesia, Prime Minister of Itlay, Vice President of Iraq, President of Cyprus, Prime Minister of China, First Vice President of Iran, Prime Minister of Nepal, President of Cuba, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and President of Afghanistan.

Indonesia

During his meeting with President Soeharto of Indonesia, the two leaders discussed means to build and expand bilateral relations. The need to strengthen India's relations with ASEAN countries in general was also discussed. India's interest in participating in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was expressed.

Italy

During his meeting with Prime Minister of Italy, Prime Minister discussed matters of bilateral interest including